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To SCMI: Re: Application of SRJO

*Archief Philip Staal*

Publications in recent years have brought many new facts to the light concerning the issue of the treatment of the Jewish orphans who survived the war.

The facts which have been made public raise many questions as to how the relevant Jewish organizations have dealt with this matter in the post-war years. This creates a moral debt the Jewish community owes to these survivors.

This in itself provides sufficient justification for a profound investigation of what today still can be clarified in this matter. The involvement of Profs. Heertje, Fischer and Blom gives the proposed project substantial weight.

There is one other additional aspect. The Jewish community rightly has asked the Dutch government and Dutch organizations to investigate restitution matters and make payments on the basis of moral grounds even if, due to the many years elapsed, there was no legal obligation. I think this should be an example for the Jewish organizations in the case of the Jewish war orphans.

I thus strongly recommend support for this project.

Dr. Manfred Gerstenfeld